

CLAIMS

1. A flow control device for dispensing liquid to a predetermined level in a
5 container, comprising a tubular body (10) having a closed upper end (11) and an open
lower end (12), an inlet (14) attached to or for attachment to a liquid supply, a flap valve
(19) which is pivoted within the body (10) below the inlet (14) about an axis (20)
extending transversely to the body (10) and which, in the absence of external forces,
will adopt an open condition allowing liquid to flow through the body (10), and a float
10 (22) internally positioned within the body (10) for pivoting the flap valve (19) towards a
closed condition as the liquid level in the container rises.
2. A flow control device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inlet (14) is arranged to
direct liquid fed into the body (10) towards one side of the pivot axis (20) of the flap
15 valve (19).
3. A flow control device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the float (22) is on or acts
on the under surface of the other side of the flap valve (19).
- 20 4. A flow control device as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the tubular body
(10) has a side discharge opening (16) for the liquid below said one side of the flap
valve (19).

5. A flow control device as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the internal wall of the tubular body (10) is provided with guide means (24) for encouraging liquid dispensed from the inlet (14) to flow past said one side of the flap valve (19).

5 6. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flap valve (19) is provided with an annular seal (23) for sealing against the internal wall of the body (10) when the flap valve (19) is in a closed condition.

7. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein
10 the flap valve (19) is weighted in order that it will adopt an open condition, in the absence of external forces.

8. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the axis (20) of the flap valve (19) is offset to one side of a plane bisecting the flap
15 valve (19) so as to divide the flap valve (19) into two portions (19a,19b) of unequal surface area.

9. A flow control device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the float (22) is provided on or acts on the under surface of the smaller portion (19a) of the flap valve (19).

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10. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising connecting means (13) for connecting the device to the container.

11. A flow control device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the connecting means comprises a hook (13) for hooking over a rim of the container.

12. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein
5 the flap valve (19) has an externally operable member (25) for pivoting the flap valve (19) between closed and open conditions.

13. A flow control device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the externally operable member (25) also acts as a stop to ensure the flap valve (19) closes in the correct
10 position.

14. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow body (10) has a pressure release valve located above the flap valve (19) when the latter is in the closed condition.

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15. A flow control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the body (10) is outwardly contoured in regions past which the flap valve (19), in use, passes as it approaches its closed condition.

20 16. A flow control device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.